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MEMORANDUM FOR GORDON STRACHAN

You should not tell Khachigian about any relationship with Harris, but he should probably be told that it is not worth his time to be analyzing Harris Polls any more.

Thanks.

W. Richard Howard
MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 2, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR H. R. HALDEMAN (per Strachan)

FROM: KENNETH L. KHACHIGIAN

An interesting note on the Harris Poll of yesterday showing the President leading EMK by 45% to 38%. I believe the poll is suspect and that in reality the President's lead might be even higher over Teddy.

Harris has the Black vote going 3% for the President and 93% for Teddy. Because this sounded out of line, I checked back to a RN/EMK trial heat Harris took this last June. In that one the President led Teddy 44% to 36% and among Blacks it was RN - 13%, EMK - 71%.

How, in a period of three months' could Teddy's support among Blacks jump thirty percent and the President's drop by 75%? My conclusion: Harris slanted the poll somewhat (note that his interpretation has EMK as the only Dem pulling up on RN while all others drop back). And the slanting probably took place not only in the Black precincts.

In any case, the data just struck me as interesting, and I feel that the true reading would have RN scoring as high over EMK as he does over Muskie.